

The Vital Ground Foundation



Our mission is to protect and restore North America's grizzly bear populations for future generations by conserving wildlife habitat and by supporting programs that reduce conflicts between bears and humans.

Land Trusts and Land Protection

- Voluntary protection of private lands
 - Conservation easements
 - Property acquisition
- Incentive based approach
 - Purchased- Cash payments
 - Tax advantages- Deductions/reductions
- Stewardship
 - Monitoring
 - Management action assistance

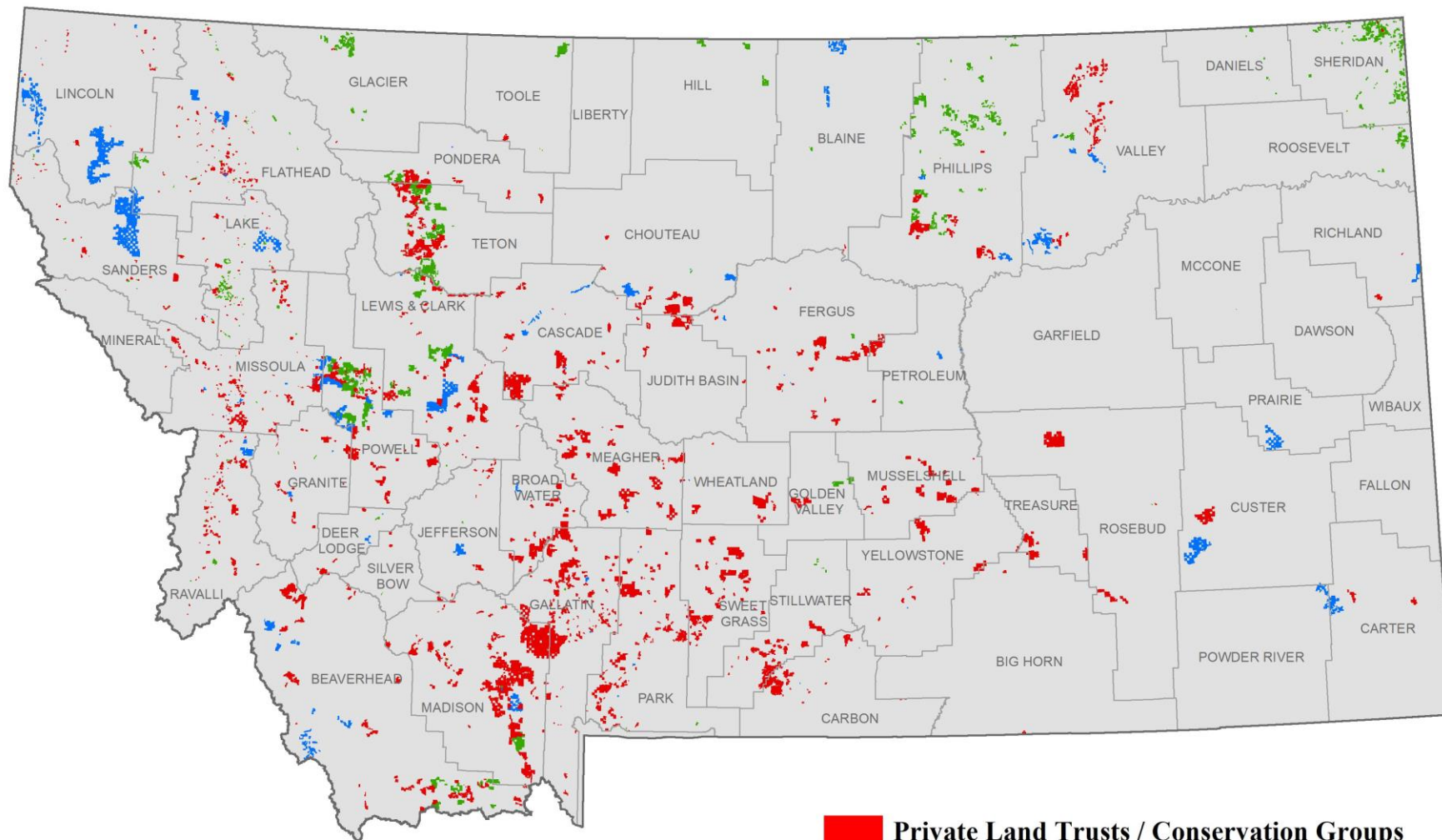


Montana Land Trusts

- Vital Ground Foundation
- Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation
- Montana Land Reliance
- The Nature Conservancy
- Trust for Public Land
- The Conservation Fund
- Gallatin Valley Land Trust
- Prickly Pear Land Trust
- Flathead Land Trust
- Five Valleys Land Trust
- Bitter Root Land Trust

Montana Conservation Easements

March 2018



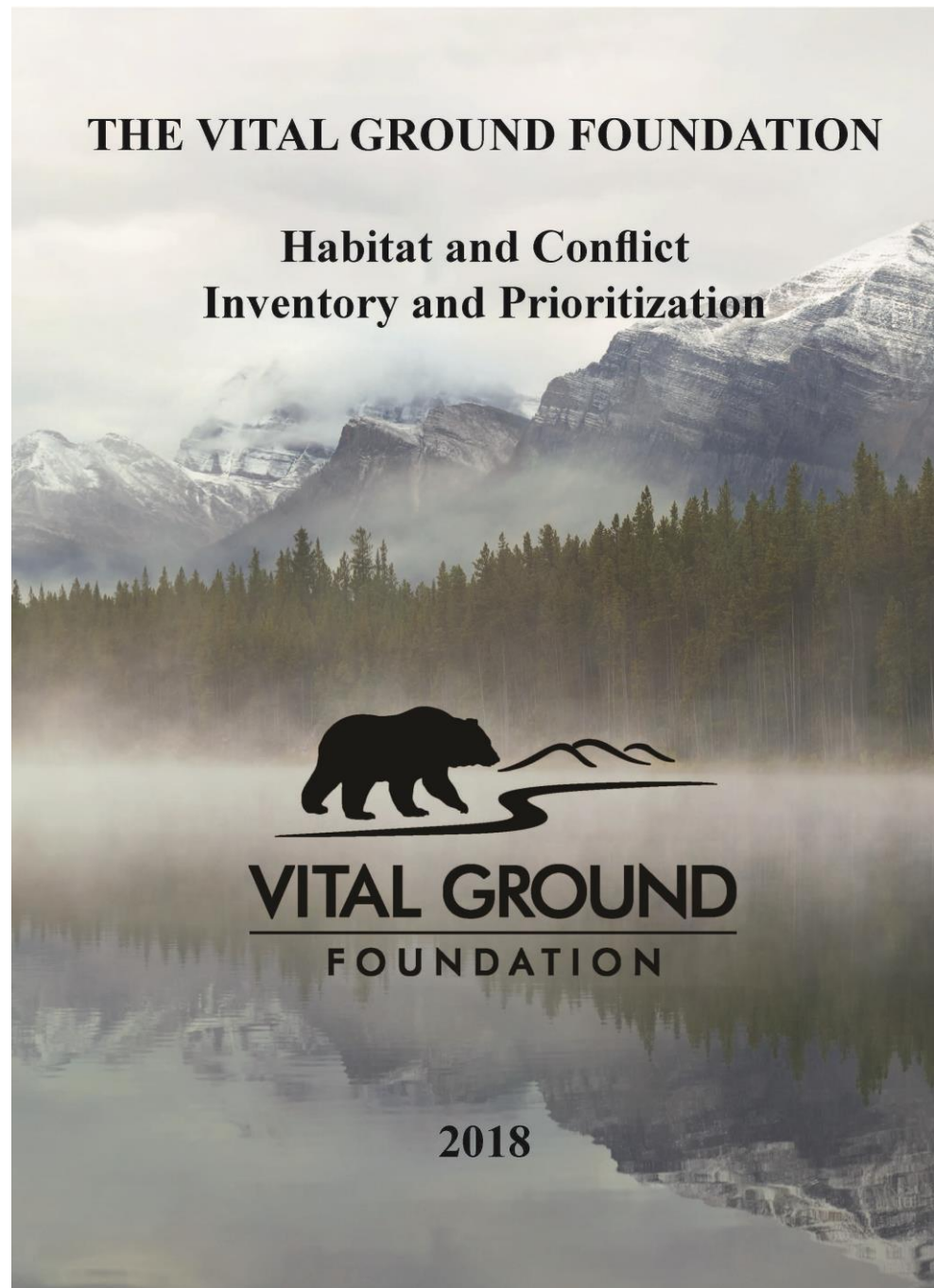
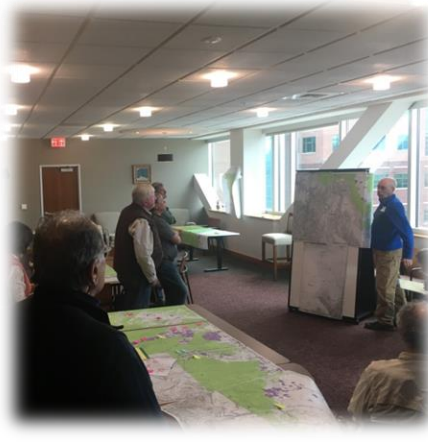
- Private Land Trusts / Conservation Groups
- State / County / City Government
- Federal / Tribal Government

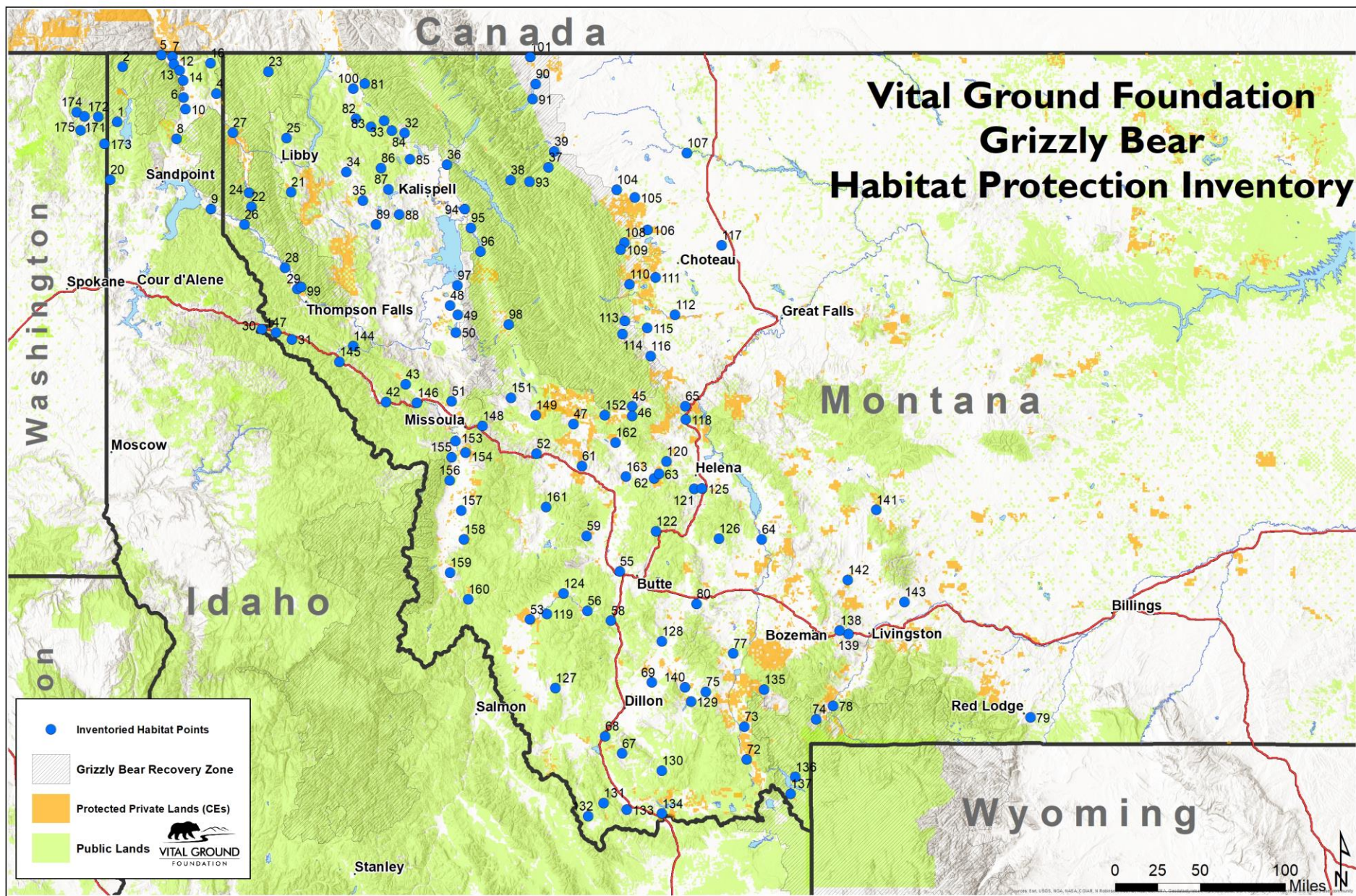
Montana is Ranked #1
in the US for Land Conservation



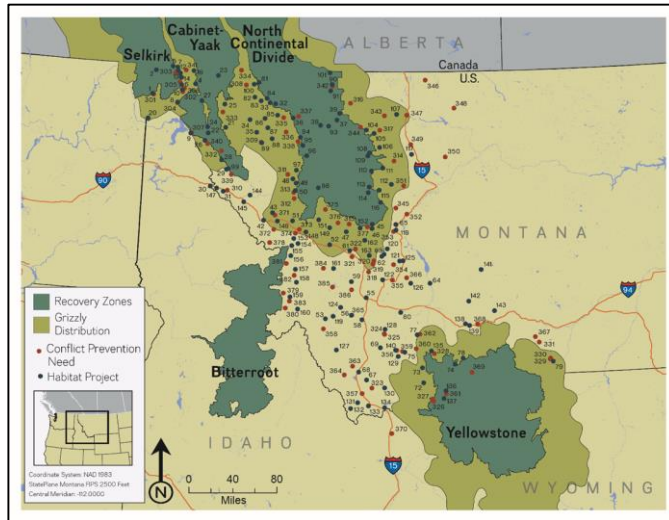
CONGRATULATIONS!

- 7 meetings across Montana, Idaho and Washington
 - 60+ Bear Managers, Biologists and Researchers
1. *What are the most important private lands for long term recovery, sustainability and connectivity?*
 2. *What are the most important grizzly bear/human conflict prevention needs across the landscape?*

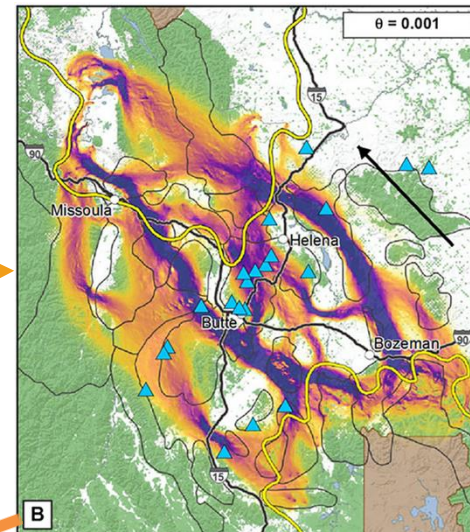




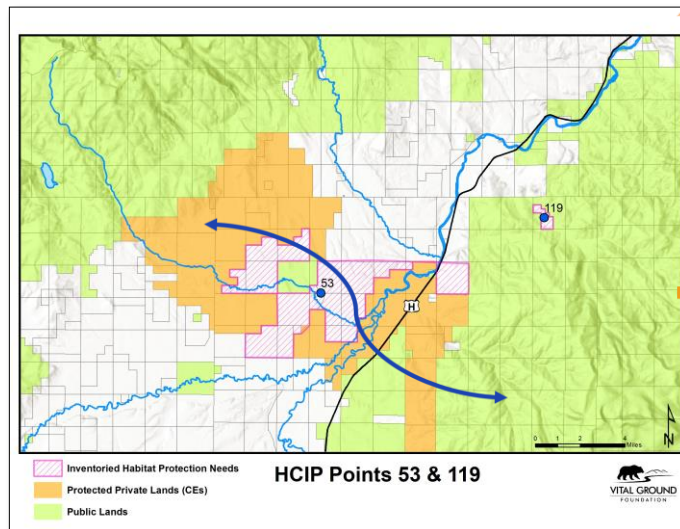
Strategic Conservation Planning



Biologist Input



Science



Analyze data



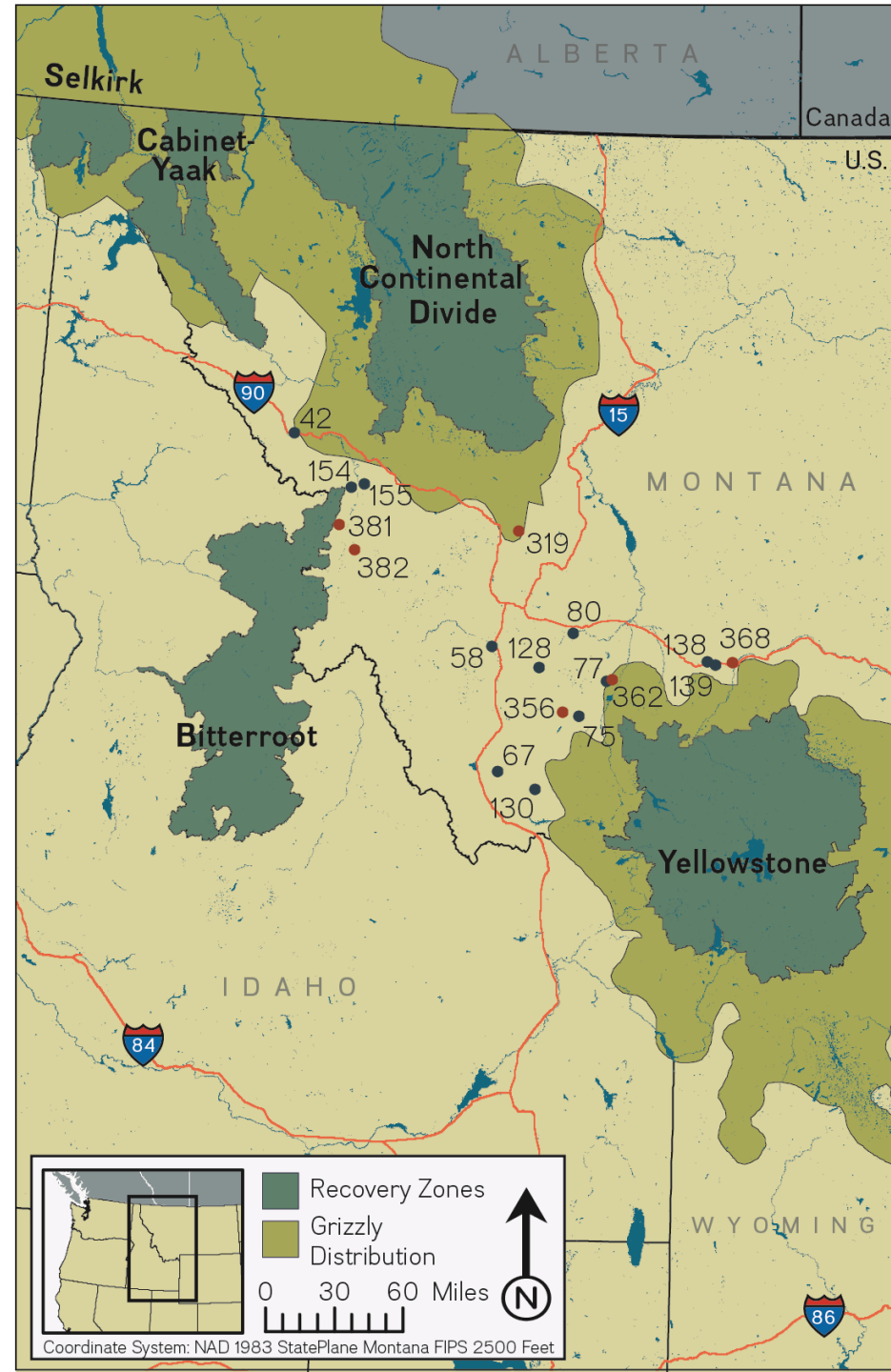
Outreach with landowners and partners

Connectivity Area Results

Inventoried 61 habitat protection areas
~344,000 acres

Prioritized 9 habitat protection areas
~78,000 acres

- Bozeman Pass
- Norris
- Twin Bridges
- Virginia City
- Divide
- Clark Canyon Reservoir
- Whitehall
- Ninemile
- Northern Bitterroot





Thank You!

